

Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs

Vet News: Week of Oct. 16, 2014



ADVA ANNOUNCEMENTS

State Veterans Day Ceremony Set

The Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs host the annual state Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at the River Market Pavilion in downtown Little Rock. Parking will be provided FREE with a parking pass. The parking passes are being distributed as an attachment to this newsletter, or you can download a copy from our Website www.veterans.arkansas.gov. No reservations are required to attend.

The ADVA State Ceremony is made possible at the River Market by the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Immediately following the ceremony, the [Rotary Club of Little Rock will provide a free lunch](#) for those who [RSVP before Nov. 4](#) to kelly.ferguson@arkansas.gov. The luncheon will be held at the Marriot (formerly the Peabody) adjacent to the Old Statehouse. Parking will be validated by request at the hotel. It is within walking distance from the River Market.

The Rotary will host keynote speaker Lt. Col. Hugh Mills, US Army Ret., author of "Low Level Hell." Lieutenant Colonel Mills was one of the most decorated pilots during the Vietnam War. He flew more than 3,300 combat hours and developed many of the U.S. Army's air cavalry aero scout tactics. LTC Mills was shot down 16 times and wounded three times, and awarded numerous medals for valor. They include the Silver Star with two oak leaf clusters, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with three oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star with two oak leaf clusters and a V device for valor in ground combat, and a Purple Heart with two gold stars. The government of Vietnam awarded him the Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star and Palm, the Vietnamese Honor Medal First Class and the Civic Action Honor Medal First Class.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Wall That Heals Coming to Conway



THE WALL THAT HEALS

The Traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial & Museum

Honor those who gave their lives by visiting a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Location: University of Central Arkansas, McAllister Hall lawn

Dates: Thursday, Oct. 30 to Sunday, Nov. 2

Times: Open for tours 24 hours a day

Join us Thursday, Oct. 30, at 10 a.m. for the opening ceremony on the Old Main lawn at UCA.



The Wall That Heals, a replica of the Vietnam War Memorial is coming to Conway on Oct. 30, through Nov. 2, sponsored by the University of Central Arkansas and The City of Conway. Details will be distributed soon, but for those looking for volunteer opportunities with this project, contact Robin Stephens at rstephens@cbc.edu.

The Wall That Heals exhibition features a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.UCA.EDU/OUTREACH/WALL

It is approximately 250 feet in length, and like the original Memorial is erected in a chevron-shape.

The replica is constructed of powder-coated aluminum, supported by an aluminum frame, and is made up of 24 individual panels, each containing six columns of names. The panels join together to form a nearly 250 feet wide structure.

As on The Wall, the names on The Wall That Heals are listed by day of casualty. Beginning at the center/apex, the names start on the East Wall (right-hand side) working their way out to the end of that wing, picking up again at the far end of the West Wall (left-hand side) and working their way back in to the center/apex, joining the beginning and ending of the conflict at the center. See more at:

<http://www.vvmf.org/twth#sthash.tRBWBkq2.dpuf>.

MACARTHUR MUSEUM OF ARKANSAS MILITARY HISTORY VETERAN CAREER FAIR

Join us as we host a career fair for veteran job seekers, active duty, guard and reserve members, and military spouses at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History in Little Rock. This event will be a free hiring fair for both employers and job seekers.

Event Schedule:

October 25th 10:00 a.m. – 2:00pm

Event Location: 503 E. 9th St, Little Rock, AR 72202



Companies Participating

Home Depot	Arvest Bank
Verizon	Starbucks Coffee
H&R Block	Pulaski County
Troops to Teachers	TeleTech
U.S. Foods	Cardinal Health
Skippy Foods	ABF Trucking
Frito Lay	Arkansas State Police
Wal-Mart	Regions Bank
The Heritage Company	

Nominate a Veteran Small Business Champion

LITTLE ROCK - The U.S. Small Business Administration Arkansas District Office is seeking amazing entrepreneurs and champions of small business to honor during the 2015 National Small Business Week Awards event in May. Nominations are being accepted through Jan. 5, 2015 at 2 p.m.

The Arkansas Small Business Person of the Year will be selected based on number of years in business, growth in employees, increase in sales, innovations in product or service, response to adversity, and contributions to the community. The Arkansas award winner will go on to compete for the 2015 National Small Business Person of the Year award. Additional awards will honor small businesses and champions at the Arkansas and South Central Region levels.

“Our outstanding Arkansas small businesses and champions are well qualified to compete at the regional and national levels,” said Linda Nelson, SBA Arkansas District Director. “We look forward to reading about our inspiring small businesses and champions. Please give this competition your immediate attention.”

For information on how to nominate a **Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year**, contact Carol Silverstrom at 501-296-3027 or carol.silverstrom@sba.gov.

VA Telehealth Services Served Over 690,000 Veterans In Fiscal Year 2014

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced its national telehealth programs served more than 690,000 Veterans during fiscal year 2014. That total represents approximately 12 percent of the overall Veteran population enrolled for VA healthcare, and accounted for more than 2 million telehealth visits. Of that number, approximately 55 percent were Veterans living in rural areas with limited access to VA healthcare. With more Veterans seeking health care, telehealth is rapidly becoming an attractive option, especially for those Veterans who don't have a VA health care facility close to home.

Currently, there are more than 44 clinical specialties offered to Veterans through VA's telehealth programs. One program at the Miami VA schedules close to 90 clinic connections every week for dermatology, eye exams, the women Veterans program, podiatry, mental health and other clinical specialties.

One tangible example of the success of VA's telehealth program is its burgeoning TeleAudiology program because of large population of Veterans living with hearing loss. The TeleAudiology program has grown from 1,016 Veterans in fiscal year 2011 to more than 10,589 in fiscal year 2014. For more information about VA's telehealth program, visit www.telehealth.va.gov/.



The U.S. Army Field Band Jazz Ambassadors

Friday, Oct. 24 7:30pm

UCA- Ida Waldran Auditorium/Old Main Hall

Tickets are free, but
required.

Get yours at the
Reynolds Performance
Hall Box Office (UCA),
open Mon-Fri, 10-4, or at
the Log Cabin Democrat:
1111 Main St., Suite 102,
Conway.



VA Processes More than 1.3 Million Veterans' Claims in FY14

WASHINGTON - More than 1.3 million Veterans received decisions on their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation and pension claims in fiscal year (FY) 2014 - the highest number in VA's history, surpassing last year's record-breaking production by more than 150,000 claims.

This second year of record-breaking production comes as VA continues to transform the way it provides benefits and services, to deliver faster and higher quality decisions, to Veterans, their families and survivors. At the end of the year, the disability claims backlog (defined as any disability claim pending longer than 125 days) was reduced by 60-percent from the peak backlog in March 2013 and is at its lowest number in nearly 4 years. Veterans waited, on average, 119 fewer days for a decision on their claim than Veterans did in FY 2013. VA is on target to hit its 2015 goal.

These improvements were not made at the expense of quality. The accuracy of VA's decisions continues to rise from an 83-percent accuracy level in 2011 to a 90-percent accuracy level today. When focusing specifically at the medical issue level, accuracy is at 96 percent.

In FY 2014, more than 4.5 million Veterans and survivors received more than \$72.7 billion in VA compensation and pension benefits. For more information on VA's Transformation, benefits and programs visit: www.benefits.va.gov/, www.ebenefits.va.gov and www.benefits.va.gov/fdc.

COUNTY UPDATES

NEWTON COUNTY:

There will be NO scheduled closures, as previously reported.

JOHNSON COUNTY:

Johnson County Veteran Service Office will be closed on Fridays from now until November. This is a temporary change.

LRAFB HAPPENINGS

Gate Will Reopen

Construction will begin soon on the Vandenberg Gate – main entrance. More information will be available soon.

Retirees Breakfast Dates

October 17, 2014

November 21, 2014

December 19, 2014 (possible briefing of wing commander for the 19th aw, 314th aw, 189th aw)

**Next retiree appreciation date Oct. 24, 2015, Thomas Community Activity Center

Exchange

Fall Farmers Market will be located at the front of the Main Exchange through Oct. 11. Several varieties of locally grown pumpkins to include ghost pumpkins, specialty gourds and seasonal fruits and vegetables will be available. Extras include Potted Mums, gift baskets/specialty jams and jellies and more.

**** To add an event, email details to kelly.ferguson@arkansas.gov ****

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Oct. 17

Arkansas Veterans Coalition meeting; 10 a.m.; VFW headquarters, Sherwood

Oct. 21

Arkansas Veterans Commission regular meeting; 10 a.m.; MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History, MacArthur Park, 503 E. 9th Street, Little Rock, AR 72202

Oct. 28

CAVHS MAC meeting; 10 a.m.; McClellan, Room 7E-101 on 7th floor

Oct. 29

- Salute: benefitting Arkansas Veterans and their Families; ARVets; 6 p.m.; Clinton Presidential Library; reception, dinner; advance tickets; nicole.hart@arvets.org
- Moral Injury & Invisible Wounds; 8 a.m.- noon; St. Bernard's Auditorium, Jonesboro; Information, spiritual assistance, counseling resources

Oct. 30-Nov. 2

The Wall That Heals, a replica of the Vietnam War Memorial; Conway; Details will TBA; Volunteers contact Robin Stephens at rstephens@cbc.edu.

Nov. 1

- Hot Rods & Heroes; 3-10 p.m.; Arkansas Air Museum, Drake Field, 4290 S. School, Fayetteville; advance tickets only; 479-957-4206
- The Arkansas Military Veterans' Hall of Fame (AMVHOF) induction; 6 p.m.; Embassy Suites in Little Rock; tickets 1-888-329-3845

Nov. 2

Sherwood Veterans Parade; 2 p.m.

Nov. 7

FREE for Veterans/Spouse Spaghetti dinner, 5:30-7 p.m.; Elks Lodge, Abbott Place off Section Line Road, Hot Springs; music and dancing

Nov. 8

- Salute to Veterans Day Concert; Jacksonville Museum of Military History and Jacksonville High School Choir; 6:30pm.; museum will be open at no charge
- Veterans Day Military Ball; 6 p.m.; St. Bernards Auditorium, Jonesboro; \$25; RSVP by **Oct. 24** at 870-933-4498 or 870-934-8792; dancing, live music, meet and greet; sponsored by Craighead County Veterans Monument Foundation
- Rev for the Veterans Car Show; 116 North First Street, Cabot; veterancarshow@outlook.com for info
- USO-type show; Hot Springs Mall; noon to 2 p.m.

Nov. 9

Veterans Day Parade; Fayetteville Square, 2:30 p.m.; lineup 2 p.m. just west on Mountain Street; point of contact Steve Gray 479-684-7996.

Nov. 11

- **Arkansas State Veterans Day Ceremony**; 11 a.m.; River Market Pavilion, Little Rock.
- Clark County Veterans Day Ceremony; 9 a.m.-noon; Courthouse gazebo park; live music
- Veterans Day Ceremony North Little Rock Veterans Memorial; 2 p.m.; William F. Laman Public Library (2801 Orange Street, NLR) Laman Plaza Stage; Major General William D. Wofford, Adjutant General Arkansas National Guard
- Veterans' Day ceremony, 11 a.m.; VA Medical Center, Fayetteville, AR, Bldg. 3 auditorium.

- Kraus Middle School Veterans Day Celebration; 9 to 11 a.m.; Clarksville High School Fine Arts Building; 1703 Clark Road, Clarksville, AR
- Johnson County Memorial Wall Re-dedication Ceremony (We are adding a KIA soldier from Afghanistan); 1p.m.; Johnson County Courthouse; 215 W Main Street, Clarksville, AR; Call Debbie Cooper at (479)754-2560 for more information.
- Annual ceremony in front of the courthouse in Marshall, Searcy County; 11 a.m.; open to public
- Ceremonies at the Hot Springs Veterans Memorial; 11 a.m. - noon
- Hot Springs Veterans Parade; 6:30 p.m. at Whittington and proceed down Central Ave.
- Veterans Day Assembly; Russellville High School; 9 a.m. breakfast honoring veterans and families; 10 a.m. assembly; guest speaker Sergeant First Class Anthony Moats; RHS band, choir & theater performances

Nov. 13

Benefit Fair; Arkansas State University @ Mountain Home; 3-7 p.m.; 1600 South College Street, Mountain Home; sabel@asumh.edu

Nov. 14

Celebrate National Native American Heritage ; LR VA 7E-101 from all 11am to 1pm; CAVHS and the Native American Subcommittee; theme is "Serving with Honor, Pride and Devotion"; speakers, Dr. Daniel Littlefield, Director of UALR's Sequoyah National Research, Ms. Amy Griffin, Park Interpreter for Toltec Mounds as well as Cherokee Heart; artifacts, storytelling and demonstrations of Arkansas Native American heritage; Refreshments will be served and attendees will have a chance to win door prizes.

Nov. 15

Veterans Day Parade in Clinton

Dec. 6,

Johnson County Christmas Parade and Light Up the Square; 6 p.m.; Johnson County Courthouse, 215 W Main Street, Clarksville, AR

Dec. 13

Wreaths Across America; 11 a.m.; Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery at North Little Rock

RESOURCES FYI

Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers (TTT) was established in 1994 as a Department of Defense (DOD) program. Managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) in Pensacola, FL, TTT helps current military personnel and veterans successfully transition to second careers in teaching.

Military OneSource

Confidential services, including non-medical counseling and specialty consultations, are available through Military OneSource. Eligible individuals may receive confidential services at no cost.

Operation Homefront

Operation Homefront assists military families during difficult financial times by providing food assistance, auto and home repair, vision care, travel and transportation, moving assistance, essential home items, and financial assistance.

[ARVets](#)

The mission of ARVets is to enhance the overall quality of life for military personnel, veterans and their families by improving access to resources and strengthening support systems through all phases of the military life cycle. ARVets will proactively offer more innovative ideas and methods to deliver services and focus on a grassroots case-management approach.

[TaxHelp.org](#)

This tax guide helps military personnel better understand how they should be filing taxes, what tax deductions and extensions they are eligible for, and what benefits their dependents and spouses are allowed. Veterans will also find their state's VA office and contact information to determine if there are unique state tax benefits.

[Show Your Stripes](#)

iHeartRadio's Show Your Stripes is a community initiative launched by Clear Channel, the media and entertainment company in America with the largest reach, to generate awareness around the issue of veteran unemployment, encourage businesses to hire skilled veterans and help those transitioning out of the military find jobs. With over \$75 million in radio, digital and out-of-home resources dedicated to this initiative in just one year, iHeartRadio's Show Your Stripes is the single largest public service campaign in Clear Channel's history.

[ESGR](#)

ESGR, a Department of Defense office, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. ESGR is supported by a network of more than 4,900 volunteers in 54 committees located across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam-CNMI, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

ADVA Vet News is a weekly email update providing information of interest to Service Officers and Veterans. Information has been provided from a variety of sources and does not necessarily constitute an opinion or position by ADVA.

A service of the [Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs](#) Public Information Department, 2200 Ft. Roots Dr. Bldg. 65, Rm. 119, N. Little Rock, AR 72114

This message was sent to members of the Arkansas Veterans' Commission, the Arkansas Veterans' Coalition, ADVA Service Officers, and County Veterans Services Officers mailing lists. Click [HERE](#) to be removed. Type "Remove Me" in the subject line.